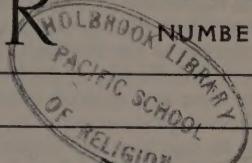


THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME VII
NUMBER 2

SPRING, 1960



CRISES IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - PAST AND PRESENT

REV. FRED FIELD GOODSELL, D.D.

No serious Christian today can doubt that the World Christian Community faces serious crisis in Christian education. A case in point is our present campaign for even and one-half million dollars to help meet the financial needs of more than one hundred church-related colleges. Note the amazing public interest in comparing Russian and American systems of education. The American situation is considered as a slump in morale, not in basic convictions as to content and method. . . .

A crisis arises when a people or nation becomes aware of a new world of knowledge in which it has not shared. Witness the difficulties overcome in the founding and development of such colleges as Jaffna in Ceylon and Robert College in Turkey. . . . A crisis arises when those in control of significant movements of the human spirit misread the signs of the times, as did Secretary Rufus Anderson of the American Board when Cyrus Hamlin saw the vision of what eventually became Robert College. . . . A crisis arises when a proud people like the Japanese insist upon nationalism as the predominant fact in the intellectual development of their nation. This attitude, common in many parts of the world in the eighteen nineties, is reflected in the decision of the leaders of the Doshisha University, Japan, to stress secularism. . . . A crisis arises when the unholy passions of men who claim superiority over their fellow men of different skin color brook no opposition to their policies of repression. Witness the death of Adams College in South Africa in 1956. . . . A crisis arises when a great denomination like our own, able but not ready to do its part, fails to obey the vision opened by its leaders. Witness the collapse of the Congregational Foundation of Christian Education in the nineteen twenties. . . .

What is Christian education? What makes a college Christian? How does a Christian college differ from a non-Christian college? One college president consulted among many stated that he did not care what a student thinks but that he did care profoundly that he should learn to think and reason logically and with due regard to verifiable evidence. There is something lacking in that position.

Congregational House on Beacon Hill in Boston points visually to the four fundamental ideals of the founders. Four plaques across the front of the building illustrate the signing of the Mayflower Compact, the service of worship the first Sunday after the Mayflower reached Plymouth Bay, the founding of Harvard College, and John Eliot preaching to the Indians. Democracy, Worship, Education, Missions: these are the foundation stones of our fellowship, the dynamic principles of our denominational program, the strands in our lifeline of faith, hope and love. Without democracy we expose ourselves to tyrants; without worship we lose hope of eternal life; without education we fail to fulfil our human destiny; without missions we sink into an abyss of selfishness.

(From the Historical Address given by Dr. Goodsell, at the Annual Meeting, April 29, 1960)

President Bradford's Valedictory

The entire report, by vote of the Society, will be included in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting. The following excerpts reflect the continuing concern of Dr. Bradford.

"This Society of ours, which I love and hope to serve as a devoted member, as long as I live, faces a great opportunity, all its own. For this is an age in which voices are raised to tell us that the past is of little importance.

"I trust that our Society will concern itself increasingly with BIOGRAPHY. Let us bring vividly into the present the men and women to whose wisdom, faith and courage we are in debt for our Congregational Christian heritage. Wasn't it Napoleon who said that 'on the field of battle the happiest inspiration is most often a recollection'? Certainly this is true in the battle of life and on the hidden battlefields of the spirit. Here, then, in the work of this Society, is a task for our whole Congregational Christian Fellowship, regardless of its present unhappy differences of opinion in reference to Church Union. All of us, pro-union and anti-union, cherish the same memories of the past which belongs to us all. Therefore, the more we study that past together, with the open mind of true scholarship, the more we shall be drawn together, in mutual understanding and good will, to achieve, at long last, a greater, stronger, more inclusive Fellowship than any we have known. So may it be! In the name of God, Amen."

ARTHUR H. BRADFORD

ARTHUR H. BRADFORD

This minute of appreciation was voted at the Annual Meeting.

Arthur H. Bradford having declined longer to serve as the president of the Congregational Christian Historical Society, the Society wishes to put on record its sense of extraordinarily good fortune in having had him as its president from the very beginning of its life more than seven and a half years ago. Not only has he presided over the affairs of the Society with fidelity and skill but he has also been of great assistance to the executive officers. Quite as important is the fact that he came to the office as one who had been a maker of Congregational history in various important capacities and that he had been in full accord with the great forward steps taken in that history which were initiated by his father during the latter's moderatorship of the National Council. We cannot thank Dr. Bradford enough for what he has done. Even more we cannot thank him enough for what he has been. For emphatically in his case "the work was fine, but the man was finer than the work."

CHARLES C. MERRILL

Hartford Highlights

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society was held April 29 in the Asylum Hill Church, with ninety-two in attendance from New England, New York and Pennsylvania. The Committee on Arrangements consisted of Chairman James F. English, Mrs. Estella H. Lane, Deans of Women at the Seminary, and the host pastor, Rev. Bernard T. Drew. Prior to the noon gathering, two simultaneous meetings were held, one a seminar for historians, the other, a business session of the Executive Committee, which later reported to the Society.

At the luncheon President Arthur H. Bradford presided and introduced Rev. Albert C. Rönnander, who spoke for the General Council and led in the singing of Psalm 23 and The Song of Moses and the Lamb. Greetings were brought by President James N. Gettemy, Hartford Seminary Foundation, Dr. David N. Beach, New Haven Association and the General Association of Connecticut (1709) and Dr. Arvel M. Steece, minister of the Old Saybrook Church (1646).

The historical address by the guest of honor, Dr. Fred Field Goodsell, on "Crises in Christian Education — Past and Present," was warmly received as a scholarly and timely utterance.

The business session, opened with prayer by Dr. Rockwell Harmon Potter, was followed by the approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, and the report of President Bradford. In his report as Treasurer, Dr. James H. Lightbourne urged wider church support, and presented an increased budget of \$9,290, approved by the Executive Committee, which recommendation was adopted by the Society. As Librarian, Rev. John A. Harrer spoke of the effective co-operation of the Library and Society, especially in the field of research. The Executive Secretary, Dr. Vaughan Dabney, replied in similar vein.

Other matters from the Executive Committee included a set of by-laws presented by Dr. Robert Wood Coe, which was adopted by the Society. A memorial from the Executive Committee of the General Council requesting the Society to prepare biographical material of Congregational leaders since 1900, looking to a series of monographs, having been favorably acted upon by the Executive Committee, was approved by the Society. The report of the Nominating Committee presented by Dr. Daniel Bliss, in the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Cornelius E. Clark, Maine Conference, was received, and the slate was duly elected, with Dr. English as the new President.

Historical exhibits included a rare collection from the Connecticut Conference. There was a display of the literature of the Society. On loan was the original painting by Aaron Bohrod, used in the December 9, 1959, issue of *Look* magazine, to illustrate the article on "The Congregationalists" by Hartzell Spence.

The Recording Secretary for the meeting was Rev. James A. Bradford.

The Eighth Annual Meeting, prophetic of still greater service by the Society, was a perfect tribute to Dr. Arthur H. Bradford, President of the Society since its founding.

New Business About Old Business

One of the best features about our Historical Society is that we help to make history by preserving a record of the past. It is obvious that we can learn from the experiences of those who have gone before us; but how can we learn unless we have some accurate knowledge of that which they did and said? To live wisely men need perspective. This is as true in matters of church as well as in affairs of state. We get perspective from our knowledge of other men who have lived and served before us, and so we enter into their labors. As I see it, we have at least two functions. The first is to learn all that we can from the record. The second is to do all that we can to preserve the record of the important events in the life of our churches today. Thus we honor the past and we help to continue the record for those who will follow us. All honor those who help us to appreciate our heritage, praise, encouragement, and assistance to those who preserve the story of the present.

JAMES F. ENGLISH

From the Report of Executive Secretary

Reference was made to the "State of the Union" whereby as separate organizations the Library and the Society pool forces and resources for the service of all our churches. Warm tribute was paid Mr. Harrer, librarian, and Miss Carrie Well, office secretary and research assistant, who was presented as one capable of serving two masters. Announcement was made of the fall publication by the Pilgrim Press of "Creeds and Confirms" (\$2.45 paper) a timely reminder of the centennial of the birth of Williston Walker. Her classics out of print demand consideration such as "The History of Congregationalism" by Atkins and Fagley, and "A History of Congregational Churches in America" by Walker. The committee appointed to collect current data on the merger is at work. It consists of Rev. Charles C. Merrill, Chairman, Rev. A. Harrer and Rev. Joseph J. Russell, Editor of "The Congregationalist." There is great need for additional material to guide local historians whom there are now 1200, a number which could be greatly increased. The denomination urged to commemorate in fitting fashion the labors of Frederick L. Fagley, founder and first leader of the Society. The first proposed

monograph might well be devoted to Dr. Fagley. Appreciation was expressed for the Hartford hospitality. Dr. Bradford, Dr. Lightbourne, the officers and members of the Society were thanked for their counsel and support. Confident hopes for the future of the Society were expressed, under the leadership of its new President, Dr. English.

The Seminar for Historians

A valuable feature of the Annual Meeting was the panel discussion ably led by Prof. Ford L. Battles, Hartford Seminary, assisted by Mr. Wesley G. Dennen, Curator of the Department of Ecclesiastical Records, Connecticut State Library, Prof. Robert S. Paul, Hartford Seminary, and Tosh Arai, a graduate student from Japan who has just completed an historical study of Centre Church, Hartford, at the Seminary. Here with is a report on the panel.

"The discussion laid particular emphasis upon the crucial role of the local historian and archivist in the writing of all history, the need for care and discrimination in the collecting and keeping of records, and particular problems of the local church historian. A lively question period dealt with the need for a church historian's manual, for standard bibliographies of helpful published materials, and for a monograph series of parish histories in which competent local studies might be published. It was generally agreed that the Society should give more professional advice and assistance to the historians of the member churches, and should provide means for them to exchange ideas and suggestions among themselves."

FORD LEWIS BATTLES

Congregational Library Bulletin May 1960

The cover illustration shows four from the rare book collection in the library: the AINSWORTH PSALTER (1612), Richard Mather's FAREWELL EXHORTATION (1657), the CONFESSION OF FAITH (1680), with an introduction by Increase Mather, and Cotton Mather's MAGNALIA CHRISTI AMERICANA (1702). The AINSWORTH PSALTER is at the bindery, the rest have recently been rebound. Any who have not received this attractive bulletin about the repair and care of rare books, and the cost involved, may address the librarian, Rev. John A. Harrer, 14 Beacon Street, Boston.

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The Officers together with
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Clifford O. Simpson, Conn.

The Budget of the Society

Anticipated Expenses

Salaries	\$5,648
Income tax, etc.	556
Office Expense	600
Printing and Promotion	2,500
	\$9,290

Membership in the Society

1. Contributing National and State agencies are voting members of the Society and name representatives to the Board of Governors.
2. Churches contributing \$10.00 or more in a year become full voting members and those contributing less become associate members of the Society.
3. Individuals contributing \$5.00 or more per year become sustaining (voting) members and those contributing less become associates of the Society.

All contributors receive the *News Letter* and other publications and reports of the Society.

Note: Contributions approved for Income Tax Credit by U. S. Income Tax Bureau

A Gentle Reminder

Individual members, sustaining churches and National and State supporting agencies are kindly requested to forward payments promptly to the office in Boston, and also to use their influence in spreading news of our Society and in securing new friends.

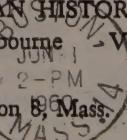
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James H. Lightbourne
Treasurer

Vaughan Dabney
Secretary

14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.



Pacific School of Religion
8 Stillson Judah, Librarian
1798 Scenic Avenue
Berkeley, Calif.

7:3

THE SUMMER NEWS LETTER
the CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized October 15, 1952

*

14 BEACON STREET

BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS

VAUGHAN DABNEY, Secretary

Executive Committee
Officers and
MISS HELEN KENYON
ALBERT J. PENNER
CLIFFORD O. SIMPSON

Librarian
JOHN A. HARRER

President
JAMES F. ENGLISH

Vice Presidents
ROLAND BANTON
FRED FIELD GOODSELL

James H. Lightbourne

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY

September 1960

Greetings:-

Now and again the Society should review its history to chart its course and renew its strength. Certain concerns of our Society were forcefully set forth in his first Annual Report (1953) by our honored founder and Executive Secretary, Frederick L. Fagley. Here are quotations from that first report which revive our sense of mission.

"The preservation of our heritage must begin at the level where our fellowship lives, the local church. This is a long educational task."

And what a rewarding task! Our research secretary, in cooperation with the Library, makes available upon request valuable records and local church histories. Seminars and printed helps provide for the training of church historians, guidance is given writers of local histories, and suggestions for anniversaries and special days are sent to pastors. Letters have already gone out to 208 churches celebrating significant anniversaries next year. Any time now, we should be receiving requests for materials on the observance of Forefathers' Day in November.

"There is a worthwhile job to be done and the total cash is very small."

It still is! The adopted budget for this year is \$9290 with which to meet rising costs and expanding opportunities. Members of the Executive Committee are devoting their time, strength and personal gifts toward raising this needed amount. About half of the budget is generously provided by the General Council, the Boards and the Conferences, with small gifts from certain lay fellowships, associations and seminaries. The remaining half is harder to get, for that must come from local churches and interested individuals. In 1958 only 171 churches and 167 individuals contributed a total of \$2660, a disappointing sum. Last year - my first in office - the amount was about the same. Unless the churches and individuals do much better, our work will suffer. A contribution of only \$10 makes a church a sustaining member of the Society; some give much more. A gift of \$5 makes an individual a voting member; some give more.

"Far away days are easily forgotten and the names of the doers inscribed on tombstones are left to the ages."

It is well to honor the Founding Fathers on Forefathers' Sunday with sermon and song. It is better to catch their spirit and have their vision. In grateful remembrance we salute our heroes. With renewed dedication we face the future. In the name of God, Amer

Faithfully yours,

Vaughan Dabney

7:3

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